

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AGENDA ITEM REQUEST
for Adoption of Rules Review & Readoption of Chapter 217

AGENDA REQUESTED: July 31, 2024

DATE OF REQUEST: July 12, 2024

INDIVIDUAL TO CONTACT REGARDING CHANGES TO THIS REQUEST, IF NEEDED: Gwen Ricco, Agenda Coordinator, (512) 239-2678

CAPTION: Docket No. 2022-1601-MIS. Consideration for the adoption of the rules review and readoption of 30 TAC Chapter 217, Design Criteria for Domestic Wastewater Systems. This review is in accordance with Texas Government Code, Section 2001.039, which requires state agencies to review and consider for readoption each of their rules every four years. The proposal was published in the November 24, 2023, issue of the *Texas Register* (48 TexReg 6922). (Shannon Gibson, Kathy J. Humphreys) (Non-Rule Project No. 2023-013-217-OW)

Cari-Michel La Caille

Director

Robert Sadlier

Division Deputy Director

Gwen Ricco

Agenda Coordinator

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Interoffice Memorandum

To: Commissioners **Date:** July 12, 2024

Thru: Laurie Gharis, Chief Clerk
Kelly Keel, Executive Director

From: Cari-Michel La Caille, Director
Office of Water

Docket No.: 2022-1601-MIS

Subject: Commission Approval for Adoption of Rules Review and Readoption of Rules
Chapter 217, Design Criteria for Domestic Wastewater Systems
Rules Review of 30 TAC Chapter 217
Non-Rule Project No. 2023-013-217-OW

What the adopted action would do:

This action will approve the rules review of Chapter 217, and readopt the chapter.

This action constitutes a determination by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, after opportunity for public review and comment, that the initial reasons for adopting the rules of this chapter continue to exist.

Applicable law:

The review of the rules is authorized under the requirements of Texas Government Code, § 2001.039; and the General Appropriations Act, Article IX, §9-10.13, 76th Texas Legislature, 1999, which require state agencies to review and consider for readoption each of their rules every four years.

Reason rules are needed:

Executive director's staff conducted a review of the rules in Chapter 217 and determined that the reasons for adopting these rules continue to exist. The rules provide design standards for treatment facilities, sewer systems, and disposal systems that transport, treat, or dispose of domestic wastewater. The rules also provide the standards that the commission uses in its review and approval of design plans and specifications. The rules are necessary to ensure that domestic wastewater systems are designed and operated to be protective of human health and the environment.

Rules found to be obsolete:

None.

Public comment:

A public hearing was not offered for this review. The comment period for the rules review closed on January 3, 2024. No comments were received.

Affected agency program(s):

The program area(s) responsible for implementing these rules are organized under the Water Quality Division, Office of Water, and the Office of Compliance and Enforcement.

Commissioners

Page 2

July 12, 2024

Re: Docket No. 2022-1601-MIS

Agency contacts:

Shannon Gibson, Project Manager, Office of Water, (512) 239-4284

Kathy J. Humphreys, Staff Attorney, Environmental Law Division, (512) 239-3417

Gwen Ricco, Texas Register/Agenda Coordinator, General Law Division, (512) 239-2678

Attachments:

Texas Register publication of Proposed Rule Review Notice

cc: Chief Clerk, 7 copies

Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, or faxed to (512) 239-4808. Electronic comments may be submitted at: <https://tceq.commentinput.com/>. File size restrictions may apply to comments being submitted via the TCEQ Public Comment system. All comments should reference Non-Rule Project Number 2023-059-005-AD. Comments must be received by January 3, 2024. For further information, please contact Susan Palachek, External Relations Division, at (512) 239-3106.

TRD-202304272

Charmaine Backens

Deputy Director, Environmental Law Division

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Filed: November 15, 2023



The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) files this Notice of Intention to Review 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 86, Special Provisions for Contested Case Hearings.

This proposal is *limited* to the review in accordance with the requirements of Texas Government Code, §2001.039, which requires a state agency to review and consider its rules for re adoption, re adoption with amendments, or repeal every four years. During this review, the commission will assess whether the reasons for initially adopting the rules in Chapter 86 continue to exist.

Comments regarding suggested changes to the rules in Chapter 86 may be submitted but will not be considered for rule amendments as part of this review. Any such comments may be considered in a future rule-making action by the commission.

Submittal of Comments

The commission invites public comment on this preliminary review of the rules in Chapter 86. Written comments may be submitted to Gwen Ricco, MC 205, Office of Legal Services, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, or faxed to (512) 239-4808. Electronic comments may be submitted at: <https://tceq.commentinput.com/>. File size restrictions may apply to comments being submitted via the TCEQ Public Comment system. All comments should reference Non-Rule Project Number 2023-021-086-LS. Comments must be received by January 3, 2024. For further information, please contact Harrison Malley, Environmental Law Division, at (512) 239-1439.

TRD-202304273

Charmaine Backens

Deputy Director, Environmental Law Division

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Filed: November 15, 2023



The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) files this Notice of Intention to Review 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 217, Design Criteria for Domestic Wastewater Systems.

This proposal is *limited* to the review in accordance with the requirements of Texas Government Code, §2001.039, which requires a state agency to review and consider its rules for re adoption, re adoption with amendments, or repeal every four years. During this review, TCEQ will assess whether the reasons for initially adopting the rules in Chapter 217 continue to exist.

Comments regarding suggested changes to the rules in Chapter 217 may be submitted but will not be considered for rule amendments as

part of this review. Any such comments will be considered in a future rulemaking action.

Submittal of Comments

TCEQ invites public comment on this preliminary review of the rules in Chapter 217. Written comments may be submitted to Gwen Ricco, MC 205, Office of Legal Services, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, or faxed to (512) 239-4808. Electronic comments may be submitted at: <https://tceq.commentinput.com/>. File size restrictions may apply to comments being submitted via the TCEQ Public Comment system. All comments should reference Non-Rule Project Number 2023-013-217-OW. Comments must be received by January 3, 2024. For further information, please contact Shannon Gibson, Water Quality Division, at (512) 239-4284.

TRD-202304274

Charmaine Backens

Deputy Director, Environmental Law Division

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Filed: November 15, 2023



The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) files this Notice of Intention to Review 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 222, Subsurface Area Drip Dispersal Systems.

This proposal is *limited* to the review in accordance with the requirements of Texas Government Code, §2001.039, which requires a state agency to review and consider its rules for re adoption, re adoption with amendments, or repeal every four years. During this review, TCEQ will assess whether the reasons for initially adopting the rules in Chapter 222 continue to exist.

Comments regarding suggested changes to the rules in Chapter 222 may be submitted but will not be considered for rule amendments as part of this review. Any such comments will be considered in a future rulemaking action.

Submittal of Comments

TCEQ invites public comment on this preliminary review of the rules in Chapter 222. Written comments may be submitted to Gwen Ricco, MC 205, Office of Legal Services, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, or faxed to (512) 239-4808. Electronic comments may be submitted at: <https://tceq.commentinput.com/>. File size restrictions may apply to comments being submitted via the TCEQ Public Comment system. All comments should reference Non-Rule Project Number 2023-042-222-OW. Comments must be received by January 3, 2024. For further information, please contact Shannon Gibson, Program Project Manager, Water Quality Division, at (512) 239-4284.

TRD-202304275

Charmaine Backens

Deputy Director, Environmental Law Division

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Filed: November 15, 2023



Adopted Rule Reviews

Texas State Library and Archives Commission

Title 13, Part 1

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (commission) has completed its review of Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Part 1,

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has completed its Rule Review of 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 217, Design Criteria for Domestic Wastewater Systems, as required by Texas Government Code (TGC), §2001.039. TGC, §2001.039, requires a state agency to review and consider for readoption, readoption with amendments, or repeal each of its rules every four years. TCEQ published its Notice of Intent to Review these rules in the November 24, 2023, issue of the *Texas Register* (48 TexReg 6922).

The review assessed whether the initial reasons for adopting the rules continue to exist and TCEQ has determined that those reasons exist. The rules in Chapter 217 are required because the rules provide design standards for treatment facilities, sewer systems, and disposal systems that transport, treat, or dispose of domestic wastewater. The rules also provide the standards that TCEQ uses in its review and approval of design plans and specifications. The rules are necessary to ensure that domestic wastewater systems are designed and operated to be protective of human health and the environment.

Public Comment

The public comment period closed on January 3, 2024. TCEQ did not receive comments on the rules review of this chapter.

As a result of the review TCEQ finds that the reasons for adopting the rules in 30 TAC Chapter 217 continue to exist and readopts these sections in accordance with the requirements of TGC, §2001.039.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



ORDER ADOPTING RULES REVIEW AND READOPTING RULES

Docket No. 2022-1601-MIS
Non-Rule Project No. 2023-013-217-OW

On July 31, 2024, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (Commission) approved the rules review of 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 217, Design Criteria for Domestic Wastewater Systems in accordance with the requirements of Texas Government Code, § 2001.039, which requires a state agency to review and consider for re-adoption each of its rules every four years. The proposed Notice of Intention to Review was published in the November 24, 2023, issue of the *Texas Register* (48 TexReg 6922).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED BY THE COMMISSION, that the rules review of 30 TAC Chapter 217 is hereby adopted. The rules and the preamble to the rules approved by the Commission are incorporated by reference in this Order as if set forth at length verbatim in this Order.

IF ANY PORTION OF THIS ORDER is for any reason held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity of any portion shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Jon Niermann, Chairman

Date Signed